

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REMOVING AND COOLING A PART FROM A FORMING TOOL

Abstract

An apparatus and method for removing a part from a forming tool and supporting the part. The apparatus includes a support member having a surface contoured to conform to a formed shape of the part and an aperture disposed in the surface. A manipulator moves the support member near the part while the part contacts the forming tool. Pressurized gas is directed toward the part to cause the release of the part from the forming tool and to cool the part. The surface supports the part to inhibit distortion as the part cools.